

Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative

Expanding Habitat for Migrating Birds

Helping People Help the Land

Louisiana Progress

August 4, 2010

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Gautreaux discusses how his farm will be utilized through MBHI with AP reporter.



Manipulating vegetation to maintain mudflat habitat.

Producer

Craig Gautreaux

Craig Gautreaux is a third generation farmer from Evangeline Parish in central Louisiana. His farming operation consists of 2,500 acres of rice and crawfish rotation. Gautreaux has been a cooperator with NRCS for 12 years. He participates in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Evangeline 319 Water Quality Project.

MBHI Conservation Practices

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

These fields will be disked, vegetation rolled, then a gradual shallow flood of fields will begin July 15. A shallow flood of 2 inches average will be maintained through February 15. In harvested rice fields, stubble will be left standing and winter flood of 6 to 10 inches will be maintained until January 30. For fields used in crawfish production, the 6 to 10 inch flood will be held until July 15, 2011.

Acres Enrolled

762.2 acres

Value of Contract

\$132,441 over 3 years

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Producer

Alan Hebert

Alan Hebert's farm is located in southwestern Louisiana in Jefferson Davis Parish. The Hebert farm produces rice and crawfish. Hebert takes pride in his farm. Hebert participated in the Calcasieu River Basin Watershed Protection 319 Project.

MBHI Conservation Practices

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Habitats of varying water depths will be developed across this 3,000 acre farm. Many fields will start as shallow mudflat habitats, maintaining 2 inches of water July 15 through November 15. In fields of standing rice stubble, a winter flood of 6 to 10 inches will be held beginning October 1 through January 30. Fields in crawfish production will extend this flood through July 15, 2011.

Acres Enrolled

2,340 acres

Value of Contract

\$296,354 over 3 years

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Fields prepared for water to create mudflat habitat.



Gradual shallow flood of 2 inches for modified habitat.

Producer

Jude Doise

Jude Doise's farm is located on tribal lands in south central Louisiana in Allen Parish. The farm is owned by the Coushatta Tribe and farmed by Doise. The Tribe produces crawfish on the farm, and Doise grows rice on the farm. Doise is an NRCS cooperator, working with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, and Conservation Stewardship Program.

MBHI Conservation Practices

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

This farm is in several smaller acreage units ranging from 12 to 30 acres.

The producer will have a variety of habitats beginning with gradual shallow floods of 2 inches on July 15. Fields will be flooded in increments through October 15. Shallow floods will be held on some fields through February. Additional habitat will be created by allowing shallow flooded fields to hold winter flood waters of 6 to 10 inches beginning in November. Winter flooded fields will maintain 6 to 10 inches through January 30.

Acres Enrolled

402 acres

Value of Contract

\$24,538 for 1 year